

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 21, 2012

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Holiday Shopping and Accessible Parking

(Bel Air, MD) - - Retailers expect a strong holiday shopping season this year; as the malls and stores become packed with shoppers, so will area parking lots. The Harford County Commission on Disabilities reminds everyone that "handicapped" (accessible) parking spaces are reserved for qualified individuals with special needs. These spaces are reserved for motorists and/or their passengers with disabilities who require those spaces and would not, in many cases be able to shop otherwise.

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities also reminds citizens that people with disabilities face challenges every day, not the least of which is finding adequate parking when they need it. For those with disabilities, the use of "handicapped" parking spaces, correctly known as accessible parking spaces, is not a luxury; it's a necessity. Yet every day, motorists with disabilities cannot find parking spaces when they need them because their non-disabled counterparts use these spaces as a means of convenience.

During the holiday shopping season, deputies with the Harford County Sheriff's Office will be checking to make sure that vehicles parked in accessible parking spaces have the parking placard or designated license plate displayed. Failure to do so may result in a fine. It is important to note, in addition to the placard or license plate, drivers are also required to produce their Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) - issued identification.

The Commission encourages all motorists with disabilities to learn more about parking accommodations for persons with disabilities, the use of special parking placards and registration plates, etc. For more information on the rules and conditions that apply, visit the MVA's *"Everything You Need to Know"* for Maryland motorists with Disabilities at <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/About-MVA/DISABILITIES/default.htm>.

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities was established in 1995 to serve as the voice of the disability community in Harford County. Members are appointed by the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council.

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The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, and local and private agencies to ensure our county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for our citizens and community.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”